GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3596
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2000
REPORT BY SUB GROUP ON TELECOM
A. VENKATESH NAIK;AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sub-group which was examining the problems of telecom operators has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the recommendations of the group are binding on Government;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether there is any controversy between VSNL and FLAG telecom; (g) if so, the reasons therefor; and (h) the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) to (e) Government have constituted a Group on Telecom and IT Convergence. This Group has set up a Sub-group to identify and recommend measures for resolution of the subsisting problems in the telecom sector with a view to ensuring expeditious implementation of NTP`99; as well as for identification and resolution of subsisting problems in the implementation of the Internet Service Providers (ISP) policy and to recommend measures for the rapid spread of E-commerce.

The recommendations of the Sub-group are to be considered by the Group on the Telecom & IT Convergence.The Government will take action on the recommendations of the Group after considering all related aspects in the matter.

The Government has already accepted the First Interim Report of the Sub-group, regarding the extension of January 31, 2000 deadline for making payments of the balance amount of 65% of the licence fee under the migration package to March 15, 2000. This decision has been implemented.

The Second Interim Report of the Sub-group has been submitted to the Group. The Group is yet to give its recommendations on this report to the Government.

The third Interim Report of the Sub-group is expected to be submitted shortly to the Group.

(f),(g) & (h) Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have represented to the Sub-group that they should be allowed to have direct access to FLAG submarine cable. The issue is governed by a commercial arrangement between VSNL and FLAG. The matter is under the consideration of the Sub-group. A view will be taken on the basis of the recommendation of the Group.